

*E1*

*E2*

1. (2X Amended) A metal carrying sleeve for printing and transfer forms, the carrying sleeve consisting essentially of: a rectangular, thin-walled flat metal sheet, that is bent to a [to a] desired hollow cylindrical form so that two edges of the flat sheet face one another; a metal weld seam that permanently connects together only the facing edges of the sheet ~~so that the sheet is~~ *expandable and* ~~slidable onto a printing cylinder via pressurized air~~; and a homogeneous, continuous and uniform outer circumferential metal surface including the weld seam and formed by processing the surface and the weld seam ~~so that one of~~ *format variable* continuous printing is possible ~~and a layer structure is placeable on the~~ *entire outer circumferential surface, including the weld seam.* *not claim*

*Schiff 8*

*E2*

(Amended) A process for producing a carrying sleeve for printing and transfer forms, which sleeve is slidable onto a printing cylinder by pressurized air, comprising the steps of: cutting a base plate from thin-walled sheet metal drawn from a roll and in a flat state to a size corresponding to a circumference and breadth of a printing cylinder;

bending the base plate into a desired cylindrical form so that two edges of the base plate face one another;

permanently connecting together the two edges of the base plate with a welded metal seam that has an outwardly directed crown; and

*E 2  
(concluded)*

processing the entire sleeve surface, including the crown, to form a homogeneous, uniform continuous outer surface so that format variable continuous printing is possible.

*S 1A 12* (Amended) A process for producing an offset printing form, comprising the steps of:

*E 3*  
producing a carrying sleeve for printing and transfer forms, which sleeve is slidable onto a printing cylinder by pressurized air, by cutting a base plate from thin-walled sheet metal drawn from a roll and in a flat state to a size corresponding to a circumference and breadth of a printing cylinder;

bending the base plate into a desired cylindrical form so that two edges of the base plate face one another;

permanently connecting together the two edges of the base plate with a welded metal seam that has an outwardly directed crown[,] ; and

processing the entire sleeve surface, including the crown, to form a homogeneous, continuous uniform outer surface, the processing step including chemically roughening and anodizing the hollow cylindrical form of the base plate and subsequently providing a photosensitive coating on the outer surface of the cylindrical form so as to create a printing form sleeve for format variable continuous printing.

~~14.~~ (Amended) A process for producing a gravure printing form, comprising the steps of:

producing a carrying sleeve for printing and transfer forms, which sleeve is slidable onto a printing cylinder by pressurized air, by cutting a base plate from thin-walled sheet metal drawn from a roll and in a flat state to a size corresponding to a circumference and breadth of a printing cylinder, bending the base plate into a desired cylindrical form so that two edges of the base plate face one another, permanently connecting together the two edges of the base plate with a welded metal seam that has an outwardly directed crown, processing the entire sleeve surface, including the crown, to form a homogeneous, continuous uniform outer surface; and

applying a metal coat to the processed outer surface and then mechanically processing the metal coat.

~~16.~~ (Amended) A process for producing a transfer form, comprising the steps of:

producing a carrying sleeve for printing and transfer forms, which sleeve is slidable onto a printing cylinder by pressurized air, by cutting a base plate from thin-walled sheet metal drawn from a roll and in a flat state to a size corresponding to a circumference and breadth of a printing cylinder, bending the base plate into a desired cylindrical form so that two edges of the base plate face one another, permanently connecting together the two edges of the base plate with a welded metal seam that has an outwardly directed

~~crown, and processing the entire sleeve surface, including the crown, to form a homogeneous, continuous uniform outer surface; and~~

~~applying an endless rubber coating to the entire processed sleeve surface.~~

*X 5  
(concluded)*

17. (Amended) A process for producing a printing form, comprising the steps of:

producing a carrying sleeve for printing and transfer forms, which sleeve is slidable onto a printing cylinder by pressurized air, by cutting a base plate from thin-walled sheet metal drawn from a roll and in a flat state to a size corresponding to a circumference and breadth of a printing cylinder, bending the base plate into a desired cylindrical form so that two edges of the base plate face one another, permanently connecting together the two edges of the base plate with a welded metal seam that has an outwardly directed crown, and processing the entire sleeve surface, including the crown, to form a homogeneous, continuous uniform outer surface; and

applying an endless ceramic coat to the entire processed sleeve surface.